

**US Embassy Paris
Regional Security Office**



**Tri-Mission Security Handbook
June 2016**

Welcome

Welcome to Paris. To ensure a safe visit for you and your family, the Regional Security Office (RSO) has prepared this information booklet for you. If you have a security issue or you are a victim of a crime, please contact the RSO office at 01.43.12.21.19 during working hours. After working hours, please call the RSO Duty Officer at 06.21.53.30.27.

Regional Security Office (RSO)



The RSO advises the Tri-Mission Ambassadors on law enforcement and security matters, conducts criminal and background investigations, coordinates with host country law enforcement, oversees the residential security program, performs VIP protection, and numerous other security related tasks. In Paris, the RSO is responsible for security at the Chancery, Talleyrand Building, NEO Building, Raphael Building, ABMC Headquarters, GSO Warehouse, as well as the Bilateral, USOECD, and USUNESCO Chief of Mission Residences, the Neuilly and Boulogne housing compounds and 250 other residences. The RSO staff also manages security programs at mission facilities in Marseille, Strasbourg, Lyon, Bordeaux, Rennes, Toulouse, Montpellier and Normandy.

The RSO staff includes six Diplomatic Security Special Agents, a Security Engineering Officer (SEO), an Office Management Specialist (OMS), a U.S. Navy Seabee, a Security Technical Specialist (STS), two Regional Security Technicians (RST), Marine Security Guards (MSG), an Administrative Assistant, a Residential Security Coordinator, an Assistant Residential Security Coordinator, an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, four Foreign Service National Investigators (FSNI), a Criminal Fraud Investigator (CFI), a Surveillance Detection Coordinator, a Pass & ID section, a Local Guard Force Coordinator, and a 120-member Local Guard Force (LGF). The LGF is present at all official U.S. Government facilities in France, while MSGs are present at the Chancery and the Raphael Building in Paris.

Terrorism



There have been numerous terrorist attacks in France over the course of the last several years. Lone Wolf actors, who are difficult to detect and counter, have presented an ongoing threat. French and U.S. authorities are also concerned about French citizens who travel to Syria to wage jihad and then return to France with plans to conduct terrorist attacks.

The Government of France maintains a threat rating system, known as “Vigipirate,” similar to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory System. Under this system, the government routinely augments police with armed forces and increases security presence at airports, train and metro stations, and other high-profile locations such as schools, major tourist attractions, and government installations.

Recent terrorist attacks with a nexus to France:

(March 2012) Mohammed Merah, a French national of Algerian origin killed 3 French military members in the Toulouse areas and in a subsequent attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse, killed three children and a Rabbi. He was later killed in a police assault on his apartment in Toulouse.

(May 2013) Alexandre Dhaussy, a French national and recent convert to Islam stabbed a French soldier at La Drt to I.

(May 2014) Mehdi Nemmouche, a French national who killed three people in an attack on a Jewish museum in Brussels, Belgium was arrested in Marseille.

(January 2015) Cherif and Said Kouachi and Amedy Coulibaly are all French nationals who carried out the attacks at the offices of the weekly satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and the Hyper Cacher kosher supermarket in Paris. They killed three police officers and ten Charlie Hebdo employees. All three were killed by police during attempts to arrest them. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the attack and announced that France is now the top enemy of Islam.

(February 2015) Moussa Coulibaly, is a French national who stabbed three French soldiers guarding a Jewish community center in Nice. Prior to the attack, he was turned away by Turkish border police in Istanbul, presumably because he was going to try to enter Syria.

(April 2015) Sid Ahmed Ghlam, is an Algerian national who killed a woman while attempting to steal her car, which he planned to use to carry out an attack on two churches in Villejuif. While attempting to steal the car, he shot his leg by accident then shot the woman and burned the car with her body in it. He later went home where he called an ambulance for assistance. Due to the nature of his wounds, Police were called and they followed his blood trail back to his car where they discovered a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a handgun. In his home, police found three more assault rifles, a flak jacket, police arm bands, and plans which outlined police response times from the stations to the two churches he planned to attack in Villejuif.

(August 2015) Ayoub El Khazzani is a Moroccan national who was on the French and Spanish terrorist watch list. He attempted to carry out an attack on the Thalys train from Amsterdam to Paris but was tackled by U.S. military service members and civilians. He had a Kalashnikov assault rifle, a Luger pistol, a box cutter, and over 270 rounds of ammunition. He had traveled to Southern Turkey and Syria and was most likely motivated by ISIS.

(November 2015) On the night of November 13 at least eight terrorists conducted attacks at six locations in and around Paris, killing 130 individuals and injuring at least 350 others. The attackers used a variety of methods, including explosives and small-arms in conducting their attack. These attacks accounted for the highest number of deaths and casualties in the European Union since the 2004 train bombing attack in Madrid, Spain. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attacks.

(January 2016) A teenager, identified as a Turkish citizen of Kurdish origin, attacked and wounded a Jewish teacher with a machete in Marseille. The teen claimed that he acted in the name of ISIS.

(January 2016) A Tunisian man attempted to enter the Goutte d'Or police commissariat in the 18th Arrondissement of Paris wearing a fake suicide vest, shouting "allah akbar" and brandishing a meat cleaver. Police shot and killed the assailant, who carried a mobile phone filled with ISIS propaganda.

(March 2016) On March 22, terrorists with a nexus to the November 13 Paris attacks executed near simultaneous attacks in Brussels, detonating explosives at the international airport and on the subway. Thirty people were killed and over 200 injured.

(June 2016) On the evening of June 13, Larossi Abballa, a Frenchman of Moroccan descent, stabbed and killed a French police officer and his girlfriend at their residence in Magnanville, approximately 30 miles northwest of Paris. Abballa attacked the police officer as he arrived home, and then held the officer's girlfriend and their three-year-old child hostage for close to three hours; the woman did not survive, but the child was not physically harmed. Police ultimately stormed the residence and killed Abballa. In a video message uploaded to Facebook, Abballa claimed allegiance to ISIS.

French military involvement in Afghanistan, Mali, CAR, and Somalia, a ban against wearing of the veil in public buildings and state schools, and the publication of anti-Muslim cartoons in the French weekly magazine Charlie Hebdo, have fueled protests and incited terrorist acts in France. The 2012 release on YouTube of the video "Innocence of Muslims", which was produced in the U.S., incited anti-U.S. protests in France.

Demonstrations



Demonstrations in Paris occur frequently on a range of social, economic and political issues and after some sporting events. Government permission must be obtained in advance for demonstrations and most are peaceful. However, unauthorized demonstrations do occur and sometimes demonstrations result in clashes between police and demonstrators. Avoid areas where demonstrations are planned or are occurring. Embassy Paris uses the MIR3 SMS notification system – please be sure to register (instructions for registration can be found at the end of this booklet). Ensure that your contact information is up to date on the Emergency Cascade for your section.

We strongly encourage you to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster your personal security. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can sometimes escalate into violence. Please monitor local media to stay abreast of developments, avoid demonstrations, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

Personal Security

You should always vary your routes and times to and from work and home. Vary your transportation method -- walk, take the bus, take the metro, drive. Always be on the lookout for surveillance, and report suspicious activity to the RSO. **Be unpredictable and hard to watch.** Do this on the weekends and during the week.

Pickpockets



Crime is a concern in Paris and pickpockets are by far the biggest problem. Be aware that there is no specific “type” of pickpocket. In Paris, they can be any gender, race or age but are commonly children under the age of 16, as they cannot be prosecuted.

Parisian pickpockets gravitate to the popular tourist areas including the Metro (line #1 in particular, which serves many tourist attractions), the Louvre Museum, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees, Montmartre, Place de la Concorde and rue Rivoli. Be extra careful while in the areas. Starbucks and other popular cafes in tourist areas are common locales for pickpockets.

If you have your pocket picked, yell “Police!” immediately. Do not chase the thief since they often work in groups and may turn on a pursuer. Your wallet was most likely handed off before you realized it was gone. Attempt to locate a police officer and make a report immediately. Paris has a well organized lost and found and many wallets are recovered. If you are having language or other problems, contact the RSO Duty Officer for assistance.

A popular pickpocketing technique on the metro is the “crush and grab”. You will be swarmed by several people all trying to get on or off. While they are pushing you, they are also picking your pockets. Another trick is to grab the wallet, bag or cellphone of someone sitting right by the door and to hop off just as the doors are closing. The most frequently used tactic on the street is distraction. Two or more people will approach you and ask for directions, try to sell you something, ask you to take a survey, tell you they just found a wallet and ask if it is yours, show you a

gold ring they claim to have found, or just crowd you. While you are occupied with one person, another is picking your pocket. Another technique is to have something thrown or spilled on you, such as water or ice cream. Someone will approach you and offer to help clean you up. Another person then picks your pocket while you are distracted.

Homelessness and Public Drunkenness



Like most major cities, Paris has a sizeable homeless population. You may notice homeless people in your neighborhood who claim a particular area of sidewalk or telephone booth to sit during the day or sleep at night. They have often been in that same spot for years. You should avoid contact with street people. Do not engage them in conversation and do not make eye contact if they panhandle or make comments to you. Some of these individuals are mentally unstable and can be dangerous.

Public drunkenness is common in Paris. Police will generally not respond to requests to move homeless or obviously inebriated individuals away from Tri-Mission residences and there is therefore little RSO can do about the problem. However, continuing problems with such individuals in the vicinity of Tri-Mission residences should be reported to RSO and to the police. If you discover that street people have gained access to your apartment building, you should contact your building's gardien and the RSO as soon as possible.

Sexual Assault



Unfortunately, date rape drugs exist and are used in France. Pay special attention to your beverage in bars and clubs. Do not accept drinks from strangers. Should you be a victim of an assault of any type, please contact the RSO Duty officer immediately. In France, only certain police stations and certain hospitals are equipped to deal with this sexual assault. When possible, women should not travel alone on the metro, buses or via taxi late at night.

ATMs



Most of the ATMs in Paris are safe. Make sure you use one that is well lit at a reputable bank. If the ATM takes your card and does not give it back, go into the bank IMMEDIATELY! This is not normal and the ATM may have been tampered with. Thieves have installed magnetic stripe readers to capture account information and small CCTV cameras to capture pin codes in some ATM's. If an ATM looks suspicious, do not use it.

Do not use an ATM if there are individuals loitering in the vicinity of the ATM. Recent tactics include individuals asking for directions while someone is using the ATM. While the ATM user is distracted, thieves get the pin and card numbers and later empty your account. Put your hand over the pin pad while you are entering your code so no one can see the numbers you enter. Another tactic used is for children to sneak up to the machine and grab your cash from below before you realize what is going on.

Metro/Bus/Tram



Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens (RATP) operates the metro, bus lines, tram and some trains in the Paris metropolitan area. RATP security personnel operate in teams of 4-5 uniformed and one plainclothes officer, looking for persons who fail to pay metro or bus fares.

Never jump the turnstile in the metro/tram/RER or fail to pay for the bus. Do not enter buses from the rear. All buses have video cameras installed and all metro stations are equipped with video cameras.

- Always retain your cancelled ticket while on the metro or bus. RATP security may ask to see it.
- RATP security carries portable ticket and NAVIGO scanners to determine if a ticket or NAVIGO pass was properly used to enter the system.
- Fines for not being able to produce a valid ticket or NAVIGO Pass or jumping the turnstile are 45E payable on the spot in cash. If you pay, receipts are given and you will be allowed to continue your journey.

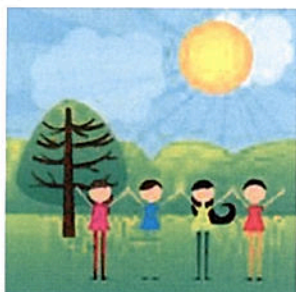
- If you are not able to pay or do not wish to pay the fine immediately, and you can provide a photo ID you will be issued a ticket, but must leave the system.
- If you do not have a photo ID and cannot pay the fine, you will be detained by the police.
- After police involvement, fines rise to 60E with a 38E processing fee.

Taxis



Most taxis in France are safe. However, women alone should not take cabs late at night if possible. Licensed cabs will have roof mounted taxi signs, meters and will have the license of the driver displayed. **Cabs without these features are not licensed taxis and should be avoided.** Tri-Mission members have been charged exorbitant fees by unlicensed taxi drivers for taxi services from Charles de Gaulle airport and been assaulted by unlicensed cab drivers. Uber service is also available in Paris. RSO and TMM have approved the use of Uber for official travel. See the TTM Staff Announcement regarding Uber on the embassy sharepoint site for details.

Parks



Parks in Paris are generally safe during the day, but are often dangerous after dark. Criminal activity including drug trafficking, prostitution, robberies, sexual and violent assaults are common in Paris parks after dark. Tri-Mission members have been assaulted in parks in Paris at night.

DO NOT FREQUENT PARKS IN PARIS AFTER DARK.

Areas to Avoid



“Exotic” Dance Clubs of Pigalle - Although many people attend shows at the famed birthplace of cabaret, it is known among locals as a sucker’s paradise. Prostitution is rampant and customers are billed upwards of 300 Euros for a bottle of champagne. If you find yourself in this predicament, do not contest the exorbitant bill when presented or you will have serious problems with the house management – who will always win.

Les Halles - This enormous underground shopping area is relatively safe during the day, but takes on a different atmosphere at night. After hours, it is a haven for gangs from the “banlieue” (suburbs) and for many drug users and sellers.

Bois de Boulogne - Similar to Les Halles, this park is safe during the day, but changes after dark. It is a hot spot for male trans-gender prostitution and the drug trade. Do not frequent the park at night or earlier in the mornings while it is still dark. Should you find yourself driving in this area after dark, roll up the windows, lock your doors and do not stop your car. Do not take photos of sex workers in this area as they have been known to chase cars in response.

Street Crime Countermeasures



The best thing you can do to protect yourself is to empty your wallet of all but essentials. Take everything out of your wallet but essentials (a credit card with a spending limit, photocopy of passport with embassy operator number written on it, no more cash than you’re willing to lose). **You must carry a photo ID at**

all times. Always be alert to your surroundings – pay attention, be assertive and don’t look or act like a victim. Don’t dress like a tourist. Consult maps and directions before leaving your hotel/home or while in a secure location in public. Keep copies of all important documents (and credit cards with phone numbers of your bank) in a safe location. If you plan to take the metro, have your ticket ready. Put your wallet in your front pocket. Zip or lock up your backpack or bags. Find a seat away from the doors or back up against one of the sides in order to minimize access to your pockets and bags (position yourself so that your wallet is

against the wall. Always file a police report for lost or stolen items. Paris has an extensive lost and found system and wallets containing IDs and credit cards are often discarded by thieves and turned in to the lost and found. In the unfortunate event that you become a victim, please inform the RSO so that we can alert others to crime trends.

Child Safety



Children should be alert, cautious, and prepared around town. They should know the safest route to school, stores, and friends' houses, avoid isolated areas, and be able to identify safe places to go in an emergency.

Encourage children to report any crimes, suspicious activities, or anything that does not seem quite right to the RSO, local police, school authorities, and parents or guardians. Children should try to walk and play with a friend or in a group rather than alone, and always let a parent or guardian know where they are going. RSO recommends that children who are allowed to take the metro by themselves carry a cellphone. **Children must carry some type of photo identification.**

The RSO security brief is available for children age 15 and older. To schedule a briefing, email the RSO OMS or call ext. 2119.

Paris is child-friendly city, but all parents should make emergency plans for their children. Maintain a complete identification packet on each child, including recent photographs, description, birthmarks, fingerprints, handwriting samples, voice and video recordings, and passport information.

You should discuss with your child what to do if they become lost or separated from a parent or guardian. Practice hypothetical scenarios and contingency plans – what to do if they're lost in the park, if they get off on the wrong metro stop, if they take a wrong turn on the street, etc.

If your child is missing call the Embassy Duty Officer and the Duty RSO.

Traffic Incidents/Accidents



Make sure your windows are rolled up and your doors are locked while driving – there have been several smash-and-grab incidents on the A1 highway between Charles de Gaulle Airport and Paris. Do not place valuables on the seat beside you.

Tri-Mission members have been victims of smash-and-grab crimes both on the road between Charles de Gaulle Airport and in Paris.

Obtain an accident report form from your insurance company (have a blank report in your car, ready to use) and know how to fill it out. Don't leave the scene of an accident without filling out the form and getting all the contact information for the other driver. If you're threatened by another driver, come to the Embassy immediately. As a rule, French police only respond to traffic accidents in the event of a fatality. If you are having trouble filling out the form or are not getting the situation resolved, call the Embassy operator and they can call the police for you.



Pedestrians must use caution when crossing the streets in Paris!

DO NOT try to cross a street without a green "walking man" sign and always look for turning vehicles when crossing the street.

Particularly at traffic circles, traffic inbound to the circle may have a red light while traffic exiting the circle may continue to have a green light, which is often not visible to pedestrians. In these cases, there is a red walking man indicating it is not safe to cross. Do not rely on traffic lights – enter intersections only when you see the green "walking man" sign.

Fire Safety



At home or in hotels, always know two ways into the building and two ways out. Many of the apartments and hotels in France are older buildings and may have wooden beams or may often be attached to restaurants. There is a real possibility of a fire spreading quickly. In January 2005, 20 people died from a hotel

fire in Paris. In September 2015, eight people died in fire in an apartment building in the 18th Arrondissement stemming from arson.

Never block fire exits or back doors to your residence. Learn your building evacuation plan and the sound of your fire alarm. Before you leave the apartment, feel the door with the back of your hand. If the door feels warm to the touch, don't open it. Wait at a window and signal for help if your escape route is blocked. Be patient; rescuing all the occupants of a tall building could take quite a while. Once you are out of the building, do not go back in for any reason.

Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring. Don't overload extension cords or wall sockets. Check all transformers for usage time and to ensure they are not overheating. Many transformers are rated for a maximum of 50 minutes only.

Know how to use your Embassy supplied fire extinguisher.



Personal Security Self Assessment Checklist



Employees and supervisors are encouraged to utilize the Personal Security Checklist below as a self-assessment tool to evaluate their daily routine in order to improve their security awareness and practices.

Daily Security Habits and Practices

- Do you vary your times and routes to and from work?
- Do you remain unpredictable by not having a set day for shopping and errands?
- Do you deadbolt your residence doors when you leave your residence?
- Do you check the interior and exterior of your vehicle prior to getting into your vehicle, looking for things that are abnormal?
- In traffic, do you always leave space between your vehicle and other vehicles to give yourself room to maneuver?
- When driving, do you maintain an awareness of chokepoints?
- Do you keep your vehicle windows rolled up and secure any valuables in the trunk while driving?
- Do you maintain a low personal profile by refraining from actions or wearing clothing that may draw attention to yourself?
- Do you remain aware of your surroundings and report suspicious persons, vehicles and activity to the Regional Security Office at ext. 2119?
- Are you careful in sharing your personal information such as family member and household staff names, addresses, telephone numbers and apartment door codes?
- Are your colleagues and family aware of your daily plans and do they know how to reach you?
- Do you ensure that your family members are briefed on security measures?

Additionally, if you are a supervisor

- Have you made this checklist available to your employees?
- Are you familiar with the provisions of 3 FAM 4127 which require that supervisors ensure they do not impose working conditions that impede employees from maximizing their personal security?
- Are you aware of the 3 FAM 4127 examples of working conditions that might impede employees from maximizing their personal security including:
 - Shift changes at the same time every day.
 - Regular early-morning staff meetings.
 - Strict adherence to set arrival and departure times.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Number for anywhere in Europe”

112 = ambulance/ fire/police

Number for France:

17 = Police

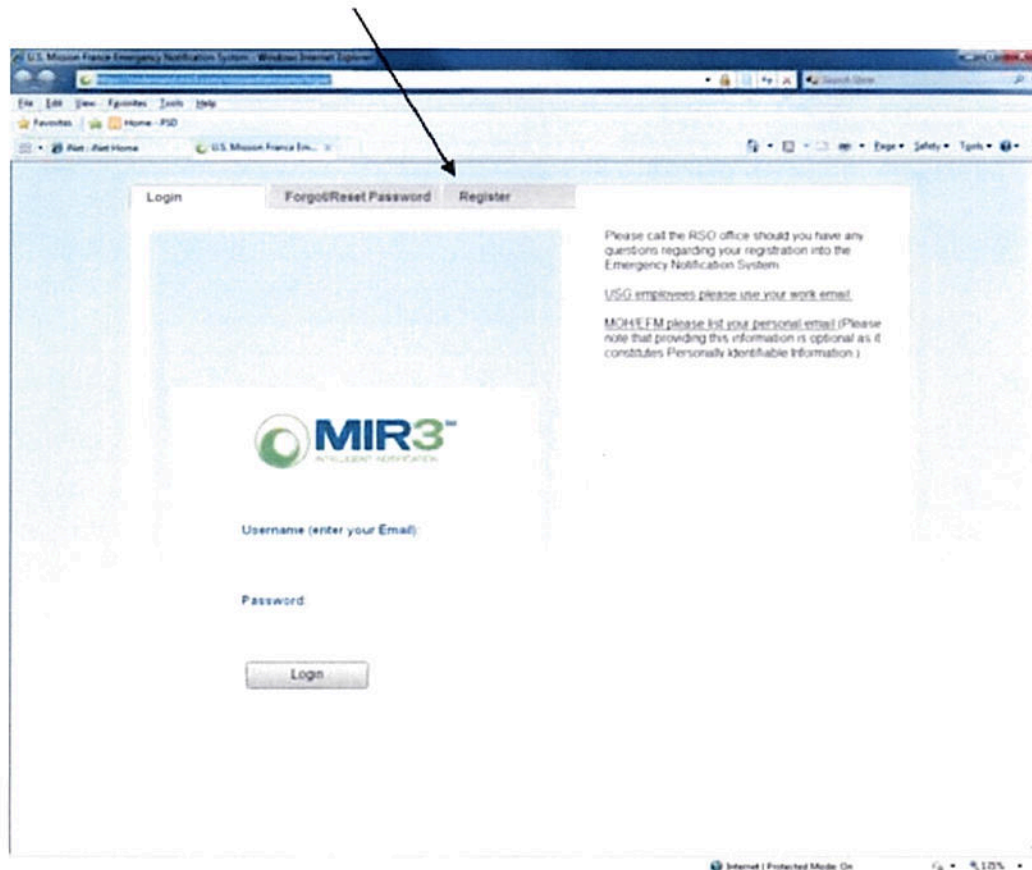
15 = Med

18 = Fire

**Embassy Operator: 01.43.12.22.22
(24 hour English Speaking Operators
– can connect to Embassy and RSO
Duty Officers)**

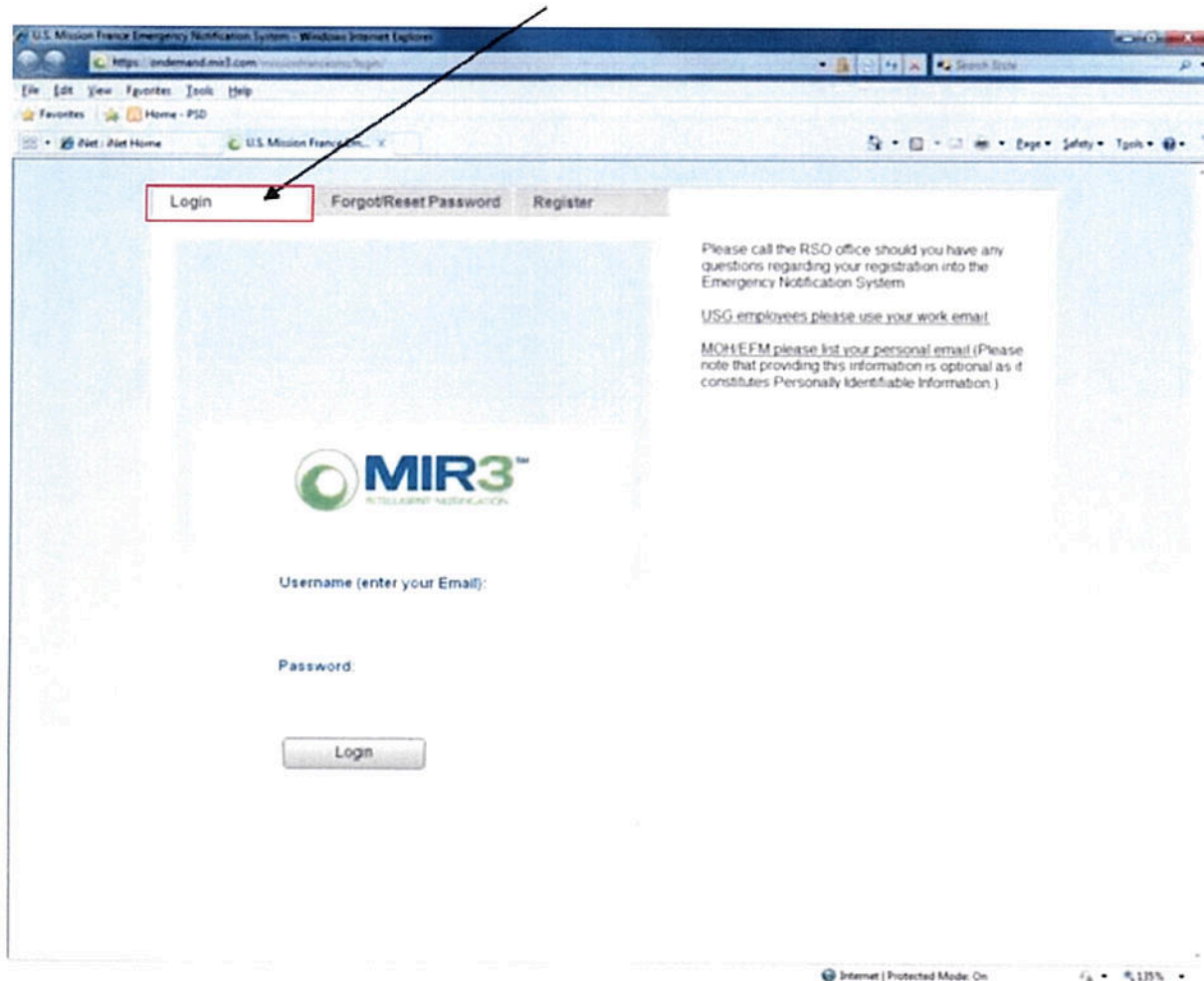
MIR3 Registration Instructions

1. Go to the following website <https://ondemand.mir3.com/missionfrancesms/login/>
From there click on the "Register" tab



2. Enter your First name, Last name and, Username. The username is your official email address or for an EFM, their personal email address. Note: Only certain login domains are allowed to register via the self-registration account portal. ([i.e. @state.gov](mailto:state.gov))
Should you not be able to create a MIR3 profile using your work email or for EFM/MOH their personal email, please contact the RSO office. (Note the MIR3 system does not currently allow usernames to include apostrophes. Should your email address include an apostrophe please contact the RSO office at ext. 2119 for assistance.)

3. You will receive an automated message at the email address you provided from “On Demand Admin”, listing your user name and password.
4. Return to the MIR3 account registration portal and enter your username and the password provided in the email in the **Login** tab.



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- U.S. Mission France Emergency Notification System - Windows Internet Explorer
- https://endemand.mir3.com/mir3portal/WelcomeToU.SMissionFrance.html
- File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
- Favorites Home - PSD
- Internet: Internet Home U.S. Mission France Em...
- Page Safety Tools
- MIR3**
Mission France Emergency Notification System
- Welcome Richard Verner
Logged in as: vernerR@state.gov
- Logout
- Account Portal**
- Help**
- Please call the RSC office should you have any questions regarding your registration into the Emergency Notification System.
- Account Portal**
- General:
- Username/Email:
- Change Password:
- Confirm Password:
- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Job Title:
- Work Address:
- Home Address:
- Primary Location:
- Registered Through:
- * = Required Field
- Clicking "Save Page" will save the entire page as an HTML file.
-
- Internet | Protected Mode: On 4/4 9:55%

Agency and section heads, please ensure your personnel register with MIR3.

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